



NEW FOR RELEASE

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Unsupervised Teen Prom and Graduation Parties Are Focus of Concern for EWRCC

With prom and graduation parties underway, the East Williston-Roslyn Community Coalition reminds parents that under Nassau County's Social Host Law, it is illegal to serve alcohol to minors under the age of 21. The Coalition supports Nassau County's Social Host Law and strongly suggests parents seek safe, chaperoned and alcohol free parties.

Research shows that parents do make a difference. Talking with your graduate about alcohol now could prevent serious problems and tragedies later.¹ EWRCC joins with the Office of National Drug Control Policy² to note many ways to help keep our teens safe and healthy during these celebration milestones:

- **REINFORCE YOUR EXPECTATIONS**

Throughout their high school years, you've set rules and established the consequences for breaking them. Perhaps you've loosened up on a few rules, like curfew. But be clear - drinking or drug use remain unacceptable. Being an upperclassman has privileges, but it also has responsibilities.

- **ENCOURAGE YOUR TEENS TO MAKE EACH MOMENT COUNT:**

Your teens only get one senior year. Let them know you don't want them to miss out on things because of bad choices, like drinking or drug use. One bad choice could change their lives forever.

- **PROVIDE SAFE ALTERNATIVES:**

Parties abound during senior year. Parents are again reminded of Nassau County's Social Host Law and should plan chaperoned alcohol-free parties when celebrating prom or graduation.

- **SET A GOOD EXAMPLE**

Don't let anyone convince you that it's a good idea for teens to drink or use marijuana under your supervision. It sends the wrong message, it may lead your teen to make other bad choices, and could subject you to civil or criminal penalties.

About the Coalition:

The Coalition was formed in 2003 by parents, school officials, clergy and law enforcement

officials in the East Williston and Roslyn communities to address deep concerns about substance abuse by young people and the at-risk behaviors that both contribute to and are caused by the use of drugs and alcohol. The Coalition's objective is to educate our families as they face today's many parenting challenges by means of parent education workshops, public service ads and a community website. The Coalition strives to give parents access to the critical resources they need to address teenage drug and alcohol use. The Coalition is an incorporated, not-for-profit organization that relies on contributions from individuals, corporations and government for its important work on behalf of the children of our communities.

For more information regarding this article or the Coalition, please go to EWRCC's website at www.ewrcc.org.

¹ National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, NIH Publication No. 05-5641, May 2005.

² Parents.theAntiDrug "Senior Year Editable Flyer" Office of National Drug Control Policy.